

**To:** Amato, Paul[Amato.Paul@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Montgomery, Michael[Montgomery.Michael@epa.gov]  
**From:** Albright, David  
**Sent:** Wed 3/23/2016 5:07:49 PM  
**Subject:** RE: media inquiry AP re question on deadline re injection wells

Paul, a few suggested revisions. Thanks.

EPA Petitioned by NGOs Requesting Aquifer Exemption Rule Revisions and New Exemption Moratorium: On March 23rd, EPA received a petition from the National Resources Defense Council, Clean Water Action, the Powder River Resource Council, and the New Mexico Environmental Law Center asking EPA to revise its existing rules related to aquifer exemptions, and to impose a moratorium on any new or expanded exemptions until such revisions are finalized. The petition is national in scope, but also emphasizes the need for more groundwater protection in areas affected by drought. OW and OGC will have the lead in responding to the petition. (Albright, 2-3971)

**From:** Amato, Paul  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2016 9:59 AM  
**To:** Albright, David <Albright.David@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: media inquiry AP re question on deadline re injection wells

Up to you. Let me know what you think.

**EPA Petitioned by NGOs Requesting Moratorium on New Injection Wells:** On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, EPA received a petition from the National Resources Defense Council, Clean Water Action, the Powder River Resource Council, and the New Mexico Environmental Law Center asking for a moratorium on all new oil, gas and nuclear industry injection wells. The petition is national in scope but emphasizes the need for more groundwater protection in areas affected by drought. We are consulting with Office of Water on procedures for responding to the petition. (Albright, 2-3971)

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**From:** Albright, David  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2016 9:45 AM  
**To:** Amato, Paul <[Amato.Paul@epa.gov](mailto:Amato.Paul@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: media inquiry AP re question on deadline re injection wells

We have the petition – it's long (70 pages). I guess we could mention it in the Weekly....

**From:** Amato, Paul  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2016 9:35 AM  
**To:** Albright, David <[Albright.David@epa.gov](mailto:Albright.David@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: media inquiry AP re question on deadline re injection wells

David, should we mention this in the Weekly Report? If so, I can probably do so based on the AP request.

Paul F. Amato

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**From:** Keener, Bill  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2016 9:30 AM  
**To:** Montgomery, Michael <Montgomery.Michael@epa.gov>; Albright, David <Albright.David@epa.gov>; Engelman, Alexa <ENGELMAN.ALEXA@EPA.GOV>  
**Cc:** Amato, Paul <Amato.Paul@epa.gov>; Zito, Kelly <ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV>; Christenson, Kara <Christenson.Kara@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: media inquiry AP re question on deadline re injection wells

One more from the Associated Press – have we even seen this petition? If not, then we can just say that as our “comment.”

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**From:** Knickmeyer, Ellen [<mailto:EKnickmeyer@ap.org>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2016 9:10 AM  
**To:** Keener, Bill <[Keener.Bill@epa.gov](mailto:Keener.Bill@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Question on deadline re injection wells

Hi, Bill,

Also, we are going to do a brief story on the petition – one filed this morning by the Natural Resources Defense Council and Clean Water Act asking that the EPA freeze approval for new aquifer exemptions for oil and gas industry. Can we get a comment from you on that? Have a noon deadline for the story.

Best,

Ellen

**From:** Knickmeyer, Ellen  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2016 8:46 AM  
**To:** Keener, Bill ([Keener.Bill@epa.gov](mailto:Keener.Bill@epa.gov))  
**Subject:** Question on deadline re injection wells

Hi, Bill – question on procedure. A couple of enviro groups are filing what they call a formal petition with EPA today asking for a moratorium on permitting of new injection wells. One group told me that protocol requires EPA to formally respond to the petition. The other group doesn't seem to be sure. Do you know? Can you tell me, this morning?

Best,

Ellen